

THE ROMULUS ROMAN

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Home project symbolizes sluggish market

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

A cluster home development in Romulus may be falling victim to the sluggish statewide housing market.

Representatives from Franklin Properties, a development firm, asked the city council for an extension of a special land use permit for a subdivision called Andover Park, which is slated to be built on vacant land on Ecorse Road.

The permit would have expired this month. Jason Janssen of Franklin said the reason they were asking for the extension is to be sure they can ramp up building when the housing market bounces back.

"We're still moving forward with our plans, but we haven't don any pre-selling of the homes," he said. "We just need more time."

Had the permit expired, the developer would have had to apply for the designation again, which could set the project back – placing Franklin Properties in a difficult situation if the market improves.

Council members saw no problem in granting the request – and did so unanimously – but some were troubled about the ominous signs of cooling housing climate.

Though enthusiastic about the project, some recognize that if the state economy doesn't improve, housing developments that are either under construction or approved for construction could sit unoccupied.

"This isn't just happening here, it's happening everywhere, but of course we're concerned about it," said Mayor Pro-tem Randy Gear. "But the upside is that when the market improves – and it's just a matter of time until it does – we'll have the housing."

Councilwoman Ellen Craig-Bragg agreed. "I would rather have vacant housing than nothing at all," she said. "I'd like to see something there instead of a empty field."

Andover Park is a 49-condominium "cluster" development. The project site plan was approved in March. At that time, representatives from Franklin were concerned the project was moving too slowly. The project will

include single-family homes and condominiums on the 33-acre parcel of land.

Last year, Franklin Properties representatives came before the council to ask for a special land use permit for the development. That request was granted after working with City Planner Cynthia Lyon and the planning commission to work out the details of the project.

The special land use approval was required because the homes are in close proximity to wetlands – and the builder could not begin construction until the provision was granted.

The planned condos will be about 1,500 square feet in size, and will be priced from \$250,000 to \$300,000. To preserve the wetlands and to maintain a rural feel for the project, 56 percent of the available land will be green space, according to the current plan.

In the past five years, about 1,000 new homes have been built in Romulus.

Janssen said building would begin at the site shortly.



Higher standards

Teachers Paul Niedermeyer, Serena Kessler, Thalia Swint, Flo Satterlee and Suzanne Snyder take a break from the presentation they and several colleagues made at a recent Romulus Board of Education meeting. The educators attended to explain the new curriculum standards put into place by the state last year. The new curriculum – which emphasizes more math and science – will require that students take four math classes in high school and introduced more rigorous requirements for reading, chemistry, physics and history. The standards are in place for the class of 2011 – who are eighth graders today.

State committees can give cities clout

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

When the Michigan House of Representatives announced the committee assignments recently, local officials became hopeful that having a well-placed advocate would help them reach some of their goals.

State Rep. Hoon-Yung Hopgood (D-Taylor) has been

named to some high-profile committees that may yield some results for Romulus.

Hopgood – who overwhelmingly won another two-year term in the State House in November – was named chairman of the House Transportation Committee for the 94th Legislature.



Hoon-Yung Hopgood

See **Committees**, page 3

Design on shelter will begin

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

The design phase of the proposed city animal shelter is set to begin now that council members have set aside \$5,000 to pay an architectural design firm to come up with a plan.

Representatives from Ghafari & Associates will meet with Economic Development Director Tim Keyes, Councilman William Wadsworth and some volunteers to discuss what is needed at a new shelter, which will likely be constructed on a city-owned parcel of land on Northline Road, near the department of public works building.

"I'm glad and immensely gratified that we can finally get started with this," said Wadsworth, who has raised about \$90,000 toward building a new shelter. "And we're still committed to doing this without using taxpayer dollars."

Estimates indicate that a new shelter would cost \$250,000. Wadsworth said that funds from individuals and businesses, as well as in-kind promises for labor, means that work can get started without necessarily having all of the money in hand.

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Local soldier talks to local students

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Back to school

Area soldier returns to share experiences with students

Kevin Hill
Staff Writer

Hunter Thornhill filed into a hallway with the rest of his third grade class outside the Bentley Elementary School gym in Canton. For half an hour, the children were to hear what it was like to be in the Army from another Canton native: Spec. Adam Bartel.

Bartel spent about 30 minutes with children from each grade last Thursday, talking about his experiences and showing them pictures he took while serving overseas for the past year. Bartel returned home recently following a four-year enlistment, where he trained in Hawaii and served in Afghanistan and Iraq in support of the War on Terror.

"War" and "Terror" were not words that Bartel, a radio controller, especially used in his talks to third, fourth and fifth graders. The Plymouth-Salem graduate mentioned "fights" with "bad guys that come to make trouble," but he mostly talked about day-to-day life in his unit and the pride felt in being part of something his family had done before him.

That's what he told Hunter, 8, of Canton, when the student asked why he wanted to join the army.

"My grandfather had been in World War II, my father was drafted in Vietnam and served his two years in Germany," said Bartel. He said that connection and job benefits affected his decision to join the Army rather than the Marine Corps—though he had considered military service since he

was as old as the children he spoke to.

The students were awed by the mere fact of Bartel's experience in the Army. Every morning during training, he said, his company had to do 100 push-ups and spend hours on an exercise bike.

"Whoa!" said the crowd of children.

The rifle he was issued had a range of eight football fields, and he was trained to hit a target three football fields away from him.

"Oh!" they said.

When he was in Iraq, he endured temperatures of 138 degrees—and that was in the northern country.

"Wow!"

The realities of combat were on the students' minds, though. One popular question: "Were you ever shot?"

"I was lucky that nobody in my particular unit was shot," Bartel said. "In fighting and that, we were shot at, but none of my guys were shot or injured like that."

One student asked if Bartel was scared when he went to Iraq. Bartel said no, because he felt he was adequately trained. He said he did have to adjust to his new unit there, though.

"You know how just like when you go to a new school or a new class and you meet new friends. You might know some or have heard of people, and that?"

The visit came after Bartel's mother, a plant engineer at Canton High School, told Bentley teacher Alice Chrenko that Bartel had returned from Iraq. Students at Bentley had already raised funds to send care packages to soldiers overseas, said Chrenko, so it



Spec. Adam Bartel spoke to children at Bentley Elementary about Army life.

was a good chance to meet an actual person on the receiving end of their efforts.

"It was nice that they could actually see, touch and talk to somebody related to what they're going to be sending gift packages to," said Chrenko, who taught Bartel when he was in kindergarten at Bird Elementary. "It's nice to be able to honor our soldiers when they come back."

Bartel, who also went to individual classrooms after the group presentations, said he just hoped to give the students a personal perspective of Army life. This was his first time talking to children about the Army, though he had given presentations to his peers as part of his job.

"That's more technical, so you feel a little more at ease—This is how it is, and I'm the expert, so listen to me," he said. "Now I'm thinking, how will somebody understand that's in fifth grade an experience like that?"

Bentley Principal Jerry Meier said it was a chance for the children to make a little more sense of the global events that surround them.

"We are involved in Iraq right now. They hear it on the news," said Meier. "This was a contact with someone who had actually been there. And it's somebody who went through our school system, so it's a little bit more personal."



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City-township merger could be good business

Andrea King
Staff Writer

This is the second story in a series about the possibility of a merge between Belleville and Van Buren Township.

What would a Belleville and Van Buren Township merge mean for area businesses?

Belleville business owners said they like the idea. Linda Hall, owner of Carriage House Promotions and president of the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce, said it's about seeing if it's the smartest way to go. Even if such a merge harmed her business, the area would be better served, she said.

"The duplicate services, like police and fire for 4 square miles, I don't think we need. It doesn't make sense from a service point of view," said Hall. "Also, if we could spread

that tax base the whole area would benefit. Resources to improve the downtown would become available and all of us would gain. I would like to see more collaboration. It's our downtown and if viability increases all businesses would get uplifted. That's the key to economic success."

Gary Snarski, owner of Century 21 Belleville Real Estate, said he, too, would like to see a merge.

"As a business owner, I don't think I would necessarily benefit, but overall we would," he said. "I envision Belleville like a Northville- Novi area: a quaint town with boutiques, eateries, walking and we have the lake.

"When I hear Belleville, I think of Belleville, Van Buren Township and Sumpter Township," Snarski added.

The tax concern is the reason some business owners in Van Buren Township, such as Joyce Rochowiak of Garden Fantasy, are against a merge.

"We never became a city in the first place because the

taxes are higher," she said. "It would hurt businesses because cost goes up and, we don't even know what Belleville's debts are. I think a merge could have been done a while ago, but not now."

Randy Brown, who also owns a business in the township, disagreed. His store, The Gardeners Choice, has been in the township for more than 10 years and he said Van Buren could bring more money to the city.

"As a business owner I don't think it'd make a difference, not in my business at least, but because of things like duplication of services I think in general it would," Brown said.

Others, like Glenn Sisk of Belleville Chiropractic Clinic, said he hasn't considered it one way or another, but Belleville business is great.

"I'm not sure if a merge would benefit, hurt or hinder, but I know now I'm doing lots of business in Belleville," he said.

News in brief

Valentines luncheon scheduled

Seniors will be able to enjoy Valentine's Day during a special luncheon on Feb. 14.

The luncheon will be at the senior center at 36525 Bibbens Road.

During the event, Mayor Alan Lambert will speak, and a dance recital courtesy of the Midwest Highland Dane Association will take place. The Dance Association specializes in traditional Scottish dance.

The cost of the luncheon is \$4.50 per person. Registration is required.

For more information, or to register, call the senior center at (734) 955-4120.

Valentine's Day shower scheduled

Expectant mothers are invited to celebrate a late Valentine's Day by attending the Baby Be Mine Community Baby Shower.

The event will take place from 6-8 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 20, at the Newburgh United Methodist Church hall. The church is located at 36500 Ann Arbor Trail.

Sponsored by Westland-based Hegira Programs Young Mothers Assistance Program, the shower is for pregnant or parenting teens aged 13-21 old with children from 0-3 years old. Family members are also invited to attend.

Mothers will be able to take part in educational programs to help them manage their affairs during the event. Games, gifts and food are also available.

The event is free for attendees. Funds for the event were provided by the Southeast Michigan Community Alliance.

Registration is required. For more information or to register, call (734) 513-7598.

Story time is back

Families looking for activities for children during the winter months are invited to step out of the cold and into the Romulus Public Library for pre-school story time.

Story time is for children ages 3 to 5. Each session includes five stories and a craft session. The library will have two separate sessions throughout February and March.

Tuesday evening sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 20, and Wednesday sessions will begin at 10:30 a.m. Feb. 28. The sessions will conclude on March 27 and 28, respectively.

The sessions are free, but advanced registration is required. The library is located at 11121 Wayne Road, next to city hall.

For more information or to register, call the library at (734) 942-7589.

Shelter

FROM PAGE 1

"The first thing we need to do is figure out what we need," Wadsworth said. "From there, we can determine what a final cost will be.

"What we did here tonight is to create a fund so that we can pay for a plan – it's just a first step," he added.

Building an animal shelter has been on the radar for a long time, but has taken a backseat to other city projects. Wadsworth had previously said that he hoped the city could move quickly on getting one built, but it's

unclear how much time will lapse from the time a preliminary design is agreed on until ground is broken on the Northline Road site. Also unclear is what will happen to the current shelter on Goddard Road after a new one opens.

Wadsworth said that the current shelter is in disrepair and can't accommodate the number of lost and stray animals that need help.

Small fundraisers – bowling events, card games, and restaurant events have helped fuel the effort for a new shelter, and Wadsworth said the vast majority of support has come from small businesses in the area.

School election deadline looms Feb. 13

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

The deadline to file for an open seat on the Romulus School Board is looming.

Those interested in running for a two-year term on the board must file petitions with a minimum of 20 valid signatures or pay a \$100 file at the city clerk's office by 4 p.m. on Feb. 13.

Late submission of any of the items will not be accepted, said Rendell Wooden, the elections clerk for Romulus.

"I always tell people that they can get that amount of signatures easily, and to get them in as soon as they can," she said. "We have to verify each signature – but we've never had to turn anyone away, and I've been here 33 years."

This year, only one school board term will expire. Incumbent Niema White — who has served on four-year term as a board member and ran unsuccessfully for the Romulus City Council in 2005 –

will face re-election.

It is unclear as to whether White will seek a second term. Numerous attempts to contact her for comment about her intentions were unsuccessful.

We have to verify each signature – but we've never had to turn anyone away, and I've been here 33 years.

Rendell Wooden

The seven-member Romulus School Board is responsible for steering all management decisions and fiscal issues within the 4,300-student district. The district has about 350 employees and a budget of \$43 million.

The board has had to make some difficult decision during the past two years. A \$1 million deficit forced the board to lay off about 40 employees and to balance the books. The board also undertook an extensive process to hire a new superintendent to run the day-to-day tasks at the district in 2006.

Board members are elected on a rotating basis every year. Two candidates are up for election each year. Because there are seven school board members, there is only one open seat this year, however.

Other than the school election, there are no other issues that will appear on the May ballot, said Wooden.

The school board election is scheduled for Tuesday, May 8. Petitions can be obtained at the city clerk's office in the basement of city hall, which is located at 11111 Wayne Road. The clerk's office is open for business from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The last day for residents to register to vote in the school election is April 9.

Committees - Regional transportation is crucial

FROM PAGE 1

"Transportation has always been the backbone of Michigan, the birthplace of the modern-day automobile," Hopgood said. "Our roads are a vital part of our success here in Michigan. Improving our infrastructure is a key component of our multi-pronged effort to bring jobs and economic development to Michigan."

Transportation, whether by air or automobile, is a major theme in Romulus. The city is home to the General Motors Powertrain plant, which is the largest maker of vehicle engines in the world, and the Detroit Metropolitan Airport, which is the ninth most-traveled in the United States. That makes Romulus an integral part of any mass-transit plan that undertaken by the county or state – which is something Mayor Alan Lambert would like to see happen.

"You hope that when an elected official gets an appointment to a committee, that is means good things for the district,"

Lambert said. "I do think it's a little more important to us that more Democrats are up there, though." Lambert is a Democrat.

The prospect of building a light rail system that would extend to Ann Arbor to Detroit would also impact Romulus because it would make sense for a stop to be located near the airport, Hopgood said.

Hopgood said he is an advocate of having more and improved public transit in Wayne County.

"Public transportation helps to connect grandparents with their families; workers with their jobs; patients with their doctors," he said. "It's an important part of everyday life for many of our residents, and we can improve our system in Wayne County."

Despite continued cuts in revenue sharing at the state level that has persisted since 2001, the Romulus has been able to maintain services and balance it's books better than most cities in the immediate area, said Lambert. He added that the city has been able to maintain most

of its businesses.

Hopgood said he thinks transportation may be the key to keeping jobs in the state in an especially difficult climate because it will be easier for people to actually get to jobs.

"Creating jobs and shoring up our infrastructure are essential to rebuilding Michigan. I will fight to ensure that our infrastructure and public transit get the attention they need, which will help create jobs and draw more businesses to Michigan," he said.

The city has offered tax incentives for businesses to stay in the city. Though few new jobs have been created as of yet, the impending casino, racetrack and the possibility of a baseball park could bring more than 3,000 new jobs to the area.

Hopgood was named to several other committees. He will serve on the Labor Committee, the Senior Health, Security & Retirement Committee, the Education Committee, and the Energy & Technology Committee.

OPINION

Festival or circus?

Members of the Westland Festival Commission received one of the answers they were looking for on Monday night.

It was probably the biggest question facing the upcoming Summer Festival, too: Would there even be one?

Concerns around Central City Park and the contamination that has been found there prompted the question. The park has been closed off since January.

That answer is yes, the proverbial show will go on. That's good news to all concerned, although it gives the festival commission a relatively tight timetable from which to work. That's particularly the case if they have to wait for approvals from the Westland Fire Department, Wayne County and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ).

The biggest issue is where the fireworks should be set off—and be viewed. That has traditionally been in the center of the park, where the wide-open space is ideal for such an activity. Residents and visitors flocked to the parking lots off Carlson Street and set out blankets along the perimeter to watch the dazzling pyrotechnic displays. A fence will stop them this year. Those approvals may take some time, but we think they should come. In all probability, there's no danger to someone spending an afternoon and part of an evening setting up and lighting off fireworks. The danger of lead exposure comes from prolonged contact. Still, it's wise for officials to be cautious, though.

The questions surrounding the Summer Festival, though, make us curious about another community event that is growing in popularity—the 24-hour Relay for Life event that has been hosted for the past several years in Central City Park. Setting aside for a moment the irony of hosting an event designed to promote cancer awareness and generate funds to fight the disease in a park contaminated with carcinogens, we still think it's an important event and we'd like to see that continue. Perhaps this is an area where Westland's neighbor, the City of Wayne, can get involved. Representatives from the event pitched their concept at a city council meeting a few years back, but didn't get much response afterward. Attwood Park, with its new soccer fields and additional parking and existing walking trail, would be a perfect place to put such an event. We'd like to see more cross-community involvement in many ways, and this would be a good place to start. It's always nice to be a good neighbor.

Plan ahead, avoid delays

Any week now, the largest thoroughfare in western Wayne County will be reduced from a bustling highway to a narrow path filled with teeth-grinding frustration.

The Michigan Avenue reconstruction project is about to get under way.

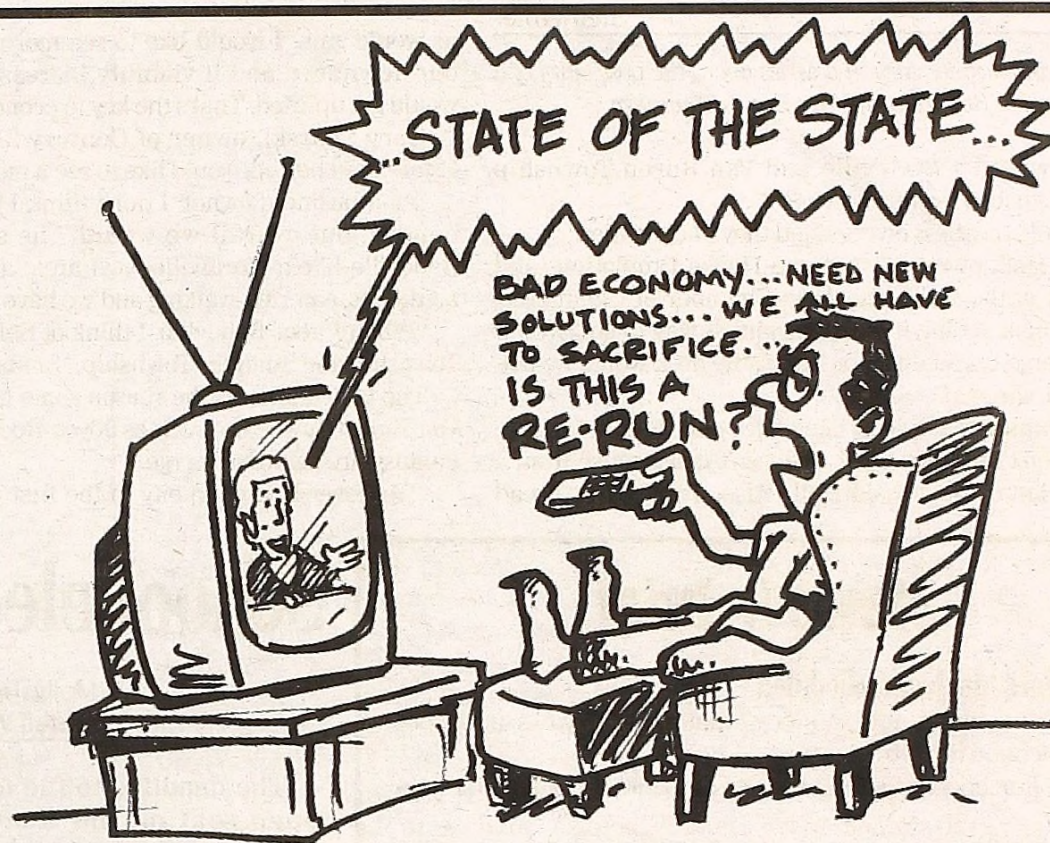
The road work will last all year—finishing, officials hope, near the middle of November. It will have the biggest impact on the City of Wayne and its business district, but signs have popped up warning driver of potential snafus as far north as Ford Road and as far south as Van Born.

And potential snafus, there will be many. In addition to the lane closures along the route—which will be from Howe Road west to the railroad viaduct—there will be temporary closures on side streets. Even when they are open, the slow line of traffic along Michigan Avenue will cause bottlenecks at intersections and push other drivers onto other roadways.

In short, it's going to be a frustrating year.

Officials in the City of Wayne and with the Michigan Department of

See **Roadwork**, page 5



Here's a real image problem

I've been to enough planning commission meetings to become fed up with the whole concept of a 'corporate image.'

You probably know what I'm talking about, and who the greatest purveyors of this concept are: drug store or fast food chains.

To be honest with you, I'm a little sick of it.

Take CVS, for example. The chain is putting in two new stores in the Northville community, one at the Five Mile and Sheldon Road corner and another to replace the one in downtown Northville.

Each time they unveiled their typical, tacky rendering that is low on brick, high on dryvit and features big red letters and red window frames.

Each time, the planners—or the Historic District Commission, in the City of Northville case—said: 'No way. Make it look better.'

The complaint from the project architect was always the same: 'This is our corporate image. We do the same building everywhere.'

Therein lies the problem.

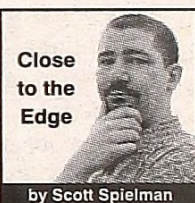
It's also not true. They put up their cookie cutter

buildings only where they're allowed to. Communities that stand up to them usually have some success—look at the CVS store on the corner of Haggerty and Ann Arbor roads in Plymouth Township for one example, Wayne and Palmer roads in Westland for another.

It's bad enough that these things apparently have to claim every free corner in the civilized world. We shouldn't allow them to slap up some tacky looking structure, too.

Besides, I don't think the average shopper cares much for the corporate image. I know I don't—I'm actually just the opposite. I would rather spend my money at a shop or store where the owner or head corporate flunkie is as proud to be a part of the community as I am to live in it. Nobody likes the proliferation of these drug store conglomerates, but their expansion can at least be less obtrusive if they put a few extra bucks into their buildings rather

See **Image**, page 5



Close to the Edge

by Scott Spielman

A lesson in cold, hard reality

How often in the past few days have you heard someone complain about the cold? If you're like me, the answer is quite a few.

On Friday, that common gripe took on new meaning after I visited the warming center operated by Full Gospel Temple in Westland while researching a story. The center, which operates from January through March, is essentially designed to help keep people with nowhere else to go from freezing outdoors.

Now, intellectually, I realized that there were homeless people in the community. It is not solely an urban issue; it can occur anywhere from small blue-collar towns like Wayne and Westland to more affluent communities like Plymouth and Northville. As I faced a room full of people, ranging from some too young to drink legally to some senior citizens, I learned just how extensive the problem actually is.

It was a sobering realization. These are people who, through some bad break or misstep, face challenges greater than I can comprehend—and their stories sound all too familiar. Many of those at the warming center were there because of problems that could happen to anyone, anytime. I learned of people with jobs who simply didn't make enough money to afford rent so they sleep in their car or who were living paycheck-to-paycheck when they lost their jobs, both problems some of my friends could face. I learned of people who have been searching fruitlessly for jobs, like so many people I know, who are held back not only by the tough job

market but also by additional challenges caused by their homelessness such as a lack of contact information—phone numbers and addresses. I learned of people who had their bank accounts drained due to illness or family emergencies.

Sure, some of the people at the center are there in part because they have demons to face in the forms of drugs or alcohol, but one of the volunteers mentioned that she had been surprised at how small a percentage they were.

The warming center in Westland won't end homelessness, but in the meantime it gives the homeless a warm, safe place to eat dinner and catch a few hours of sleep during the coldest months of the year. Is it a perfect solution? No. But as wind chills near 20 below zero, it is hard for me to disdain a temporary solution while more permanent solutions are being sought.

It's easy to forget about the homeless population. I should know; I did it. But it is also easy to help. OK, some people don't have much money to spare. What would it cost to volunteer for a few hours either at the shelter in the evening or toward other mission work, including a soup kitchen and behind-the-scenes prep work, one afternoon, or to donate some socks, a few dollars, or some non-perishable food?

For anyone interested in getting involved, the number to the church-operated Lighthouse Home Mission is (734) 326-3885.



Looking around

by Meghan Chatham

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Senior spotlight

Center to host caregivers group

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Caregivers now have a new option for support.

The September Days Senior Center in Van Buren Township will host a new caregiver support group from 1 to 2:30 p.m. today in the Denton Room at township hall.

In conjunction with the Adult Well Being Services—an organization that provides seniors with resources—September Days will provide extra support for caregivers in the area, according to Sarah Scherdt, senior coordinator at the center.

“We heard there’s a need here whether it’s a senior taking care of their spouse or children taking care of their aging parent. It’s an opportunity for them to take a time out from being the caregiver so they have the strength to continue,” she said.

“This is not just for seniors, but anyone who helps a spouse, parent, friend or family member with day-to-day activities, doctor visits and medical decisions,” she added. “Members, non-members, any caregivers that can benefit are welcome.”

The monthly group meeting will include the opportunity to share experiences, stories and feelings with the common goal to support each other in an understanding, safe and secure environment, officials said.

Chris Goldberg, from adult well-being services, will talk about her experiences as a caregiver, along with suggestions, medical support, coping strategies and other resources.

“It’s necessary for caregivers to get the information and resources that’s useful to them,” said director Linda Combs. “This is becoming more and more prevalent now where people are taking care of their loved ones, particularly here in Van Buren. You can’t do it alone, you have to have the support to back you up.”

“There’s a great benefit in knowing you’re not alone,” said Scherdt. “Relationships change when you’re being a caregiver in the relationship and you might just need a place to express those feelings. You’re a gift to your family and we want these people to feel encouraged as they continue to give.”

For more information, contact the September Days Senior Center at (734) 699-8918.

Van Buren school board members are honored

The Van Buren Public School board members were honored recently as part of School Board Recognition Month.

“The foundation of school leadership is ensuring equal learning opportunities for all students,” said Superintendent Pete Lazaroff. “We’re proud of our district and School Board Recognition Month is the time to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of our elected trustees.”

In Van Buren, school board members must develop policies and make decisions on complex educational and social issues impacting the entire community. They bear responsibility for an annual budget of approximately \$53 million, 6,448 students, 825 employees and 12

buildings, according to officials.

“School board members make decisions that affect 1.7 million Michigan children and \$12 billion in educational expenditures,” said Lazaroff. “They preserve the core of our democracy: public education.”

Members honored were President David Peer for 16 years of service; Vice-President Ralph Nodwell for 10 years of service; Secretary Victor Hogan for four years of service; Treasurer Keith Johnston for six years of service; Trustee Robert Coutts for three years of service; Trustee Toni Hunt for two years of service and Trustee Martha Toth for 15 years of service.

their buildings. Hey, we did something similar in Northville Township, we can do it here. In both cases, officials in those communities liked the renderings of the other one better.

I just wonder if a company is so worried about its corporate image, why don’t they try to project this one: a company that is proud to be a part of the community, a good neighbor that is willing to put up the nicest building it can?

to avoid it all together.

There are a couple of other things to think about with this project, too. First of all, when finished, it will provide a major upgrade to the downtown area in the form of an improved street and additional streetscape features. It will be a relative bargain for the city, too, because only \$1.3 million of the \$7 million project will come from city coffers—and that will be funded through the Downtown Development Authority.

Wayne businesses, too, will probably suffer the biggest hit. Let’s all figure out a way to get around the roadwork and ensure they’re still around to enjoy the benefits of the new road. It will be a tough year for them, too.

Image

FROM PAGE 5

than just set up shop and wait for the money to roll in.

The funny part about the two Northville situations, though, is that each time the architect pointed to officials in the other community when they agreed to upgrade

Road work

FROM PAGE 5

Transportation recognize this, of course, and have done their best to inform the public about the issues. Their latest attempt was probably the most widespread in the city—they hosted a study session about the project prior to their regular meeting on Tuesday in full view of the cameras. They’ll replay it on the local cable channels.

The best thing to do is start planning additional routes right now, rather than get caught up in the traffic snarls. The best way to deal with the frustrating situation is

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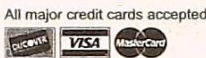


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THE SCENE

Celebrate Black History Month

Since 1976, America has recognized February as Black History Month.

The annual celebration of the achievements and accomplishments of African-Americans began when Carter G. Woodson, a Harvard-educated scholar, decided that the world should see Black Americans "as a participant rather than as a lay figure in history."

The then-51-year-old-author, educator and newspaper publisher, organized Negro History Week. The second week in February was dedicated to educating the masses about the contributions Blacks have made on American life. The week was chosen to coincide with the birthdays of both Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln—two men who work tirelessly for the abolition of slavery.

On the 50th anniversary of Black History Week, the event grew to encompass the entire month.

Belleville

Library to host African American Book Club

The Fred C. Fischer Library in Belleville hosts an African American book group at 7 p.m. on the last Thursday of each month. The February book will be *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison. For more information on this and other book groups, contact the library at (734) 699-3291.

Canton

Rock My Soul arts display offered

This art exhibition from the Arts League of Michigan explores the legacy of African-American musical artists through the original work of several Detroit-based African-American painters. The free exhibit is on public display at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, now through March 4. Viewing hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday; 7-9 p.m. Friday and Saturday; and 5:30-7:30 p.m. Sunday.

Plymouth

Paintings depict everyday life

An exhibit by African-American painter and historian Byron Reed is currently on display at the Plymouth Community Arts Council. The paintings depict everyday life in Detroit during the 1940s and 50s.

The Plymouth Arts Council is located at 774 North Sheldon Road. The exhibit will be open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on weekdays. For more information call (734) 416-4278 or visit www.plymoutharts.org

Underground Railroad quilts on exhibit

Messages hidden in everyday quilts are revealed at the Plymouth Historical Society Museum. More than 100 quilts that include secret codes for the thousands who came to southeastern Michigan on the Underground Railroad in search of freedom are on display. The museum, which is located on 155 South Main St., is open from 1-4 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for students. Children under 5 are free. Family package rates are available along with AAA membership discounts. For more information, call (734) 455-8940 or visit www.plymouthhistory.org.

Inkster

Sororities host Black History contest

The Inkster chapters of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Delta Sigma Theta, Zeta Phi Beta and the Top Ladies of Distinction have partnered to sponsor their first Black History Month essay contest. The purpose of the contest is to encourage elementary, middle and high school students to research African American heritage and



provide a purposeful writing experience. All students in the Inkster and Westwood Districts are invited to submit an essay. A ceremony to acknowledge the winners in the elementary, middle and high school categories is scheduled to take place at 6 p.m. on Feb. 12 at Baylor-Woodson Elementary School. The school is located at 28865 Carlyle Road. For more information about the contest, call Theola Jones at (313) 561-3918.

Black history dinner will support Summerfest

The Inkster Summerfest Committee will host a Black History Dinner on Feb. 17 as a fundraiser for the Summerfest scholarship program. The program gives \$500 awards to high school seniors living in Inkster. The event will begin at 7 p.m. on Feb. 17. Dinner will be served promptly after the start of a program, which will last until 8:45 p.m. Live music and dancing will take place from about 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Event organizers are asking participants to wear Kinte cloth, or other traditional African clothing to the event, but it is not required. A prize will be given to the person with the most elaborate traditional clothing.

Tickets are \$15 per person and tickets for the event will be available at the door. To purchase tickets, call Ruth Williams at (734) 732-1922 or Theola Jones at (313) 561-3918.

Wayne

Library offers time for reflection

The Wayne Public Library will present the film *Follow the Drinking Gourd* from 2-3 p.m. on Feb. 24. In the Reading Rainbow presentation of Jeanette Winter's classic

book, LeVar Burton introduces the history, heroes, stories and music of African American culture. There will also be age-appropriate activities for children and light refreshments. Registration is suggested.

Westland

Church offers youth achievement series

The Lutheran Church of Our Savior in Westland will host a series of speakers in honor of Black History Month. Known as 'Educating Youth Through Mentoring,' the series is designed to teach adults the importance of mentoring young people as well as encouraging youths to achieve. Church leaders created the four-week series.

It will feature State Rep. Alma-Wheeler Smith tonight, Christopher Lindsay of the Academy of Westland charter school on Feb. 15, and Winship Elementary School principal Kay Williams-Hales on Feb. 22. All of the speakers will begin at 7 p.m. The church is located at 29425 Annapolis Road in Westland. For more information, call the church at (734) 728-3440.

Regional

The Henry Ford celebrates freedom

The Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn will present *Minds on Freedom*, a 30-minute interactive musical and dramatic presentation this month. Visitors will learn about pioneers of the Civil Rights Movement – such as the Freedom Riders, Dr. King, Gloria Rackley and others – through spoken word, music and images.

Visitors can participate in *Minds on Freedom* during the following times:

Monday – Wednesday: 10:45 and 11:45

See Month, page 7



Use of Internet can benefit veterans group

Meghan Chatham
Staff Writer

Supporters of Veteran's Haven in Wayne are now surfing the Internet to raise money for the non-profit organization.

According to Scott Romp, spokesperson for Veteran's Haven, a chance visit to the Michigan Non-profit Association web site introduced the group to the search engine GoodSearch. Affiliated with Yahoo!, the search engine shares the profit it makes from advertisers for each Internet search with charitable organizations specified by the user.

The decision to add Veteran's Haven—a registered non-profit organization dedicated to aiding veterans in need of assistance—to the legion of organizations

already participating in the program was simple, Romp said.

"It's a great idea," he said. "It doesn't cost anybody anything. Why not do it?"

For each search in Veteran's Haven's name, Romp said that the group would receive about one cent. Although that may not sound like a lot, he said that those pennies could add up quickly if a lot of people decided to utilize the site. For instance, if 1,000 people searched twice a day, the group could earn about \$7,300 per year—and "painlessly."

That's specifically why the site was begun in 2005, according to GoodSearch president and co-founder Ken Ramberg.

"My sister, JJ, and I started this site," he said. "We knew that there were a lot of people who

want to do good, but may not have the time or the money."

The idea developed out of the idea of taking something most people do every day—searching the Internet—and turning it into a fundraiser, he said. There are now more than 28,000 groups that use the site as a way to raise money without extra effort.

"Because it's powered by Yahoo, people aren't giving up any of the quality they're used to," he said.

Time will tell how it will work out for Veteran's Haven, but Romp said that they already know what they want to apply the funds toward.

"We're trying to build Veteran's Village," he said. "It will give veterans an affordable and permanent home."

The proposed Veteran's Village program would provide about 25 units for low-income veterans and their families, but Romp said that making it a reality isn't cheap.

"It's a \$3-4 million project," he said. "It's about \$150 per square foot for a project like this."

Still, he said, "there's a lot of need for this kind of thing."

"Right now, there are about 3,000 counted homeless veterans in the Detroit area," said Romp. He added that the number could actually be much higher since that number only includes individuals who not only went to a shelter but also volunteered the fact that they were veterans.

"Everybody has supported our troops with ribbons," he said. "They should have supported our

veterans. They are forgotten once they come back."

To participate, visit www.goodsearch.com and enter the name of the group you wish to benefit and hit verify. After the organization name is confirmed, the site operates in the same way as any other search engine. The organization name only needs to be verified once; it will be stored to the computer so that step can be skipped during subsequent visits unless the user wishes to switch to a different beneficiary.

Month

FROM PAGE 6

a.m.

Thursday and Friday: 10:45 and 11:45 a.m., 1 and 2 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday: 11:45 a.m., 1, 2 and 3:30 p.m.

Visitors can also sit on the Rosa Parks Bus, where Mrs. Parks refused to give up her seat and sparked the Civil Rights Movement, and hear her recount this experience in her own words. The bus is located in the museum's With Liberty and Justice for All exhibit, which takes

visitors through four key turning points in America's history: the Independence movement and Revolutionary War, the antislavery movement and Civil War, the Women's Suffrage Movement and the Civil Rights Movement. In this exhibit, visitors are "introduced" to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and hear excerpts from his "I Have a Dream" speech.

Other activities include Hands on Freedom, which allows visitors to create their own souvenirs of the historic Rosa Parks Bus and a protest button, as well as participate in a freedom scavenger hunt in Henry Ford Museum. These activities are available all day.

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BECAUSE I SAID SO (PG-13) 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15 FR/SAT LS 11:30
THE MESSENGERS (PG-13) (11:35) 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:45, 9:55 FR/SAT LS 11:55
EPIC MOVIE (PG-13) (11:25) 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:40 FR/SAT LS 11:40
CATCH AND RELEASE (PG-13) 12:00, 2:25, 7:20
STOMP THE YARD (PG-13) 4:50, 9:50
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) (11:15) 1:35, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00 FR/SAT LS 11:20

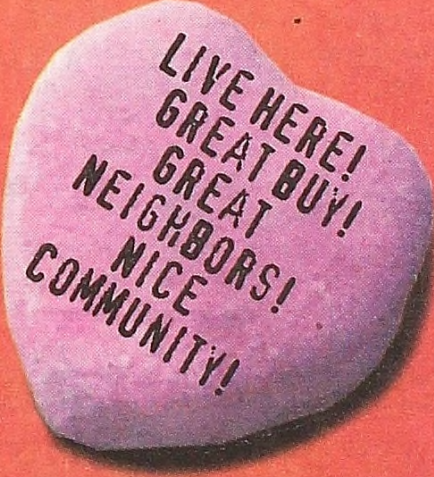
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Soon to wed

Willibey-Raupp will marry

Stephanie Willibey and Ken Raupp are engaged to be married.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Patty and Lanny Willibey of Ypsilanti. She earned her bachelor's degree in food marketing at Western Michigan University and is currently the marketing manager at Domino's Pizza.

The future groom is the son of Ken and Helene Raupp of Westland. He earned his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Western Michigan University and is employed as a product engineer at Daimler Chrysler proving grounds.

The couple has set a June 23, 2007 wedding date.



Stephanie Willibey-Ken Raupp

Lockwood-Carothers are betrothed

Leia M. Lockwood and Bryan Carothers are engaged to be married.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Russ and Elaine Lockwood of Belleville.

She is a 1998 graduate of Belleville High School and earned her bachelor of science degree from Eastern Michigan University in 2003.

She is currently employed as an occupational therapist in Tampa, FLA.

The future groom is the son of Patricia Carothers of Pinellas Park, FLA. He earned his Auto CAD certification from St. Petersburg College in 2001 and is



Leia Lockwood and Bryan Carothers

currently employed as a field supervisor for Retro Elevators in Florida.

The couple will be married March 24, 2007.

Connie Newland and Bill Cullen are engaged

Connie P. Nowland and Bill Cullen became engaged to wed on New Years Day, 2007.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Virginia J. Sweatt of Wayne. The future groom is the son of

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Suchara of Livonia. No wedding date has been set.

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SPORTS

Tigers take round 1 from Romulus Eagles

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Call it a premonition; call it confidence; or call it heart.

Whatever it's labeled, Belleville's Marius Williams said it, had it and displayed it all last Tuesday when he and his Tiger teammates took to the hardwood against visiting arch nemesis Romulus.

The 5-foot-10 senior guard led his team with 25 points—10 in the fourth quarter—in a come-from-behind, 70-66, victory against the Eagles.

"I told the guys today to just follow me and we won't lose this game," Williams said.

Follow, they did—like dedicated troops marching behind a battle-hungry general into enemy territory. And lose, they did not.

At first it looked ominous as a sea of burgundy uniforms worn by a taller, quicker Romulus team flooded the Belleville gymnasium. The Eagles led for most of the last three frames and by as many as 11 in the third quarter, but Belleville never let Romulus get too far ahead—a must in order to keep in step with Belleville Coach Don Hickman's plan.

"I was on the boys all week long, telling them that I was going to put together a game plan that I think is going to work," said Hickman. "And if they can execute that plan I knew that we could find a way to beat this team."

"We wanted to get them in a game in the fourth quarter. I knew if we were within a few points in the fourth quarter we could find a way to win it."

The plan worked almost to the tee with the biggest push coming in the final minutes of the game.

Romulus' junior guard Dominique Buckley drained a triple to put his Eagles up, 61-54, going into the final three minutes of the contest. Instead of the basket drowning the Tigers' hopes, it fired them up. From there, Belleville went on a 16-5 tear

to close out the game. "Everybody stepped up in that last three minutes," Williams said. "The coaches were talking about having all five oars in the lake and we all paddled together. We all pushed together; everybody was clicking; everybody was in sync."

Williams had help on the outskirts from relative newcomer and junior guard Kyle Gupton. In just his second week of eligibility with the team—he was a transfer from Lincoln and sat out the first semester of play—he contributed with 20 points. What Belleville lacked in outside shooting, Gupton brought. He scored eight points in the fourth-quarter rally, including a triple to open the frame and another with about 2:23 left in play to put the Tigers up 62-61.

"It feels good to get to play with the team finally," Gupton said. "A lot of guys are serious about the game and serious about winning and winning as a team—it feels pretty good."

Defense was also a key factor for Belleville. They slowed a Romulus squad that was averaging about 80 points a game to 66. Players like senior center Anthony Wafer and senior forward Brian "Butch" Zantop limited 6-foot-10 Eagle Devin Searcy to just seven points.

Buckley got loose on the Tigers and scored 19. The rest of the scoring was spread between nine different players. In the last minutes nobody got it done.

"Whoever closes the game out deserves to win it," said Romulus Coach Nate Oats. "They closed the game out and we didn't. There's a difference when you go 100 percent and when you go 80 percent. And we went 80 percent too long tonight and not 100 percent long enough."

Hickman never doubted his team's heart, especially Williams'.

"Marius has a heart of a lion," he said. "He told me today that he wouldn't let us lose. And he didn't. He did not let us lose."

See Round 1, page 11



Northville's Alvin Storrs drives to the basket against Canton's Josh Butler last Tuesday. Despite Canton's furious comeback in the final minute of the game, Northville prevailed, 47-45. Photo by Ken Garner

Northville rises to top of Division

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Northville hoopsters escaped two close calls last week to emerge as the frontrunner in the Western Division.

They stepped into the home ring with fellow divisional heavy-hitters Canton last Tuesday for a slow-paced, bludgeoning bout. Both teams were undefeated on the Western side of the Western Lakes Conference but only one could come out on top.

The two teams never went toe-to-toe until the final round, when Canton countered a Northville 26-18 lead after three quarters. The Chiefs used a one-two combination of man-to-man defense and quick scoring to get back into the fight by scoring 21 points—10 in the last minute—in the fourth. The wild flurry ended just short of a win.

Northville held off the attack to triumph 40-39, and stay undefeated into divisional play.

"I knew it would be tough," said Northville Coach Darrel Schumacher. "They are a tough team and they did a good job on Alvin (Storrs), but we had a lot of contribution from other players."

Josh Butler held Storrs—Northville's leading scorer—to six through the first three frames. Storrs, however, cut loose for nine in the fourth to keep Canton at bay.

The Mustangs showed they meant business, starting the opening quarter with a 7-0 run with baskets from Bret Spencer, David Burke and Michael Rogers. After that, Storrs scored off of a steal and Spencer drilled a triple to give Northville a 12-4 advantage. The quarter would end 12-6 in Northville's advantage. Butler scored four of the Chiefs' points in the quarter.

Defense was the key for Northville in the second—they limited Canton to six again. Rogers blocked three shots and scored four points in the inning. Martins Trautmanis added some energy off the

bench and scored four. Northville took a 23-12 advantage to the locker room at the half.

The tables turned in the second half. The Chiefs mounted a 6-0 run at the top of the third quarter to close the gap, 23-18. That would be all for Canton in the third, though. Northville's only points in the quarter came off of a three-point play by Storrs with about 2:14 left.

Canton switched up defense and the faster pace led to scoring opportunities that the Chiefs made good on. Northville only hit two buckets in the finale, but a 10-for-17 showing from the line gave the Mustangs a 35-29 lead with about 51 seconds left. Canton's Neil Sharma provided a much-needed spark, scoring six points. Ryan Waidmann added two baskets, including a put-back that brought Canton within one, 40-39, with just five seconds on the clock. Canton had no timeouts, leaving the Mustangs in charge.

"I thought it would be close," said Canton Coach Charlie Paye. "I thought we played well on defense. Josh (Butler) did a good job against Alvin (Storrs), but they had other guys step up—that's what good teams do."

Storrs led Northville with his 15. Rogers scored eight and Spencer, seven.

Waidmann scored 11 for Canton and grabbed eight rebounds. Sharma hit for 10 and Steve Paye added eight.

The Mustangs found themselves in a similar situation when they traveled to Wayne on Friday.

It looked like the game was slipping away from the Zebras when they were down 37-26 after 24 minutes of play. Wayne, following in the footsteps of Canton, also staged a comeback in the fourth. The Zebras outscored the Mustangs, 19-10.

It took three minutes before either team scored in the final frame. Wayne's Jeremy Lovelady ended the drought with a deuce. Then Michael Lee followed to

See Hoops, page 10

Balancing act

Canton places 7th at home invitational
Canton gymnast Alyssa Kelley performs on the balance beam at the Canton Invitational on Saturday. She finished third all-around and the team finished seventh overall. For full details and results go to www.journalgroup.com.



Whalers topple London Knights, Erie Otters

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Compuware Sports Arena played host to two of the Ontario Hockey League's (OHL) premier teams Saturday when Plymouth and London took to the ice in a division crossover game.

It was the Whalers—first in the West Division at 35-13-1-2—that lanced the visiting London Knights (36-12-1-3), 7-3. London leads the Midwest division of the OHL.

The win put Plymouth 11 games ahead of second-place Saginaw (29-20-0-2) with 17 games left to play in the regular season.

The bitter cold didn't deter the Whaler's red-hot January streak. Plymouth went 10-2 for the month. They're already ahead 2-1 in February with wins against London and Erie and a loss at Sarnia.

Saturday's win against London was the Whalers' third in the four meetings with the Knights this season. Furthermore, the game proved that defense wins games, too.

Plymouth's league-leading penalty killing unit shut down London's league-leading power play. The Whalers only gave up one power-play score in 10 London attempts. A big part of that was the performance of star goaltender Michal Neuvirth, who stopped 32-of-35 London shots to beat the Knights for the third time this season. His overall

record now rests at 20-7-1-1.

Offensively, Tom Sestito scored two goals, boosting his team-leading total to 31. Sean O'Connor also scored two goals and notched an assist in the rout. Evan Brophey, Chris Terry and Wes Cunningham each scored single goals.

O'Connor got things started at 2:53 of the opening frame when he fired a shot past Steve Mason. Sestito gave Plymouth a 2-0 lead with a goal at the 16:52 mark of the period.

The Whalers added three more goals in the second period. Terry scored just 1:56 in but Rob Drummond made it a 3-1 game when he got one by Neuvirth.

O'Connor scored off of a Jared Boll pass and Brophey made it 5-1 with about 1:06 left in the middle round.

The teams traded two goals apiece in the third. Cunningham made it 6-2 at 5:15 and Sestito finished off the scoring at 9:36. Patrick Kane (4:50) and Sam Gagner (7:55) also scored for London.

Plymouth plays host to Owen Sound at 7:05 pm on Friday and to Windsor at 7:05 pm on Saturday before heading to Windsor at 2 p.m. on Sunday.

Whalers 10, Otters 1

Brophey and Sestito each scored three goals in the Whalers



Whaler Evan Brophey fires a shot at Erie goalie in Plymouth's 10-1 victory on Friday. Brophey scored three goals and notched two assists in the win. Photo by Ken Garner

Hoops

FROM PAGE 9

throws by Willie Pompey and a triple from Lee cut the deficit to three, 39-36. With 39 second left Martez Abney nailed a triple and after a Northville turnover Lee scored again to make it a 45-43 game. Seconds later Abney sank two from the line, knotting the game at 45.

However, it was just another ill-fated comeback attempt by a Northville opponent.

Northville had possession with only 21 seconds left. The Mustangs held on to the last possible second before getting the ball into Storrs' hands. He lofted a jumper from just inside the three-point arc at the buzzer to win.

"We knew we had ball possession and

we, of course, wanted the ball in Alvin's hands for the last shot," said Schumacher. "Alvin made a great shot to win it."

Storrs led the team again with 16. Rogers added 10 and David Burke eight.

Abney led all scorers with 18 for Wayne. Lee had 10 and John Hill, eight.

Northville (12-1, 8-1) heads to Franklin at 7 p.m. on Friday before playing host to Walled Lake Western at 7 p.m. on Tuesday.

Canton (8-5, 5-1) is host to Wayne at 7 p.m. on Friday.

The Chiefs kick off the last week of regular season play with a trip to Franklin at 7 p.m. on Tuesday and finish the season with a rematch against Northville at 7 p.m. next Friday.

Wayne (7-6, 3-3) hosts Franklin at 7 p.m. tomorrow and Plymouth at 7 p.m. next on Tuesday.



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Round 1

FROM PAGE 9

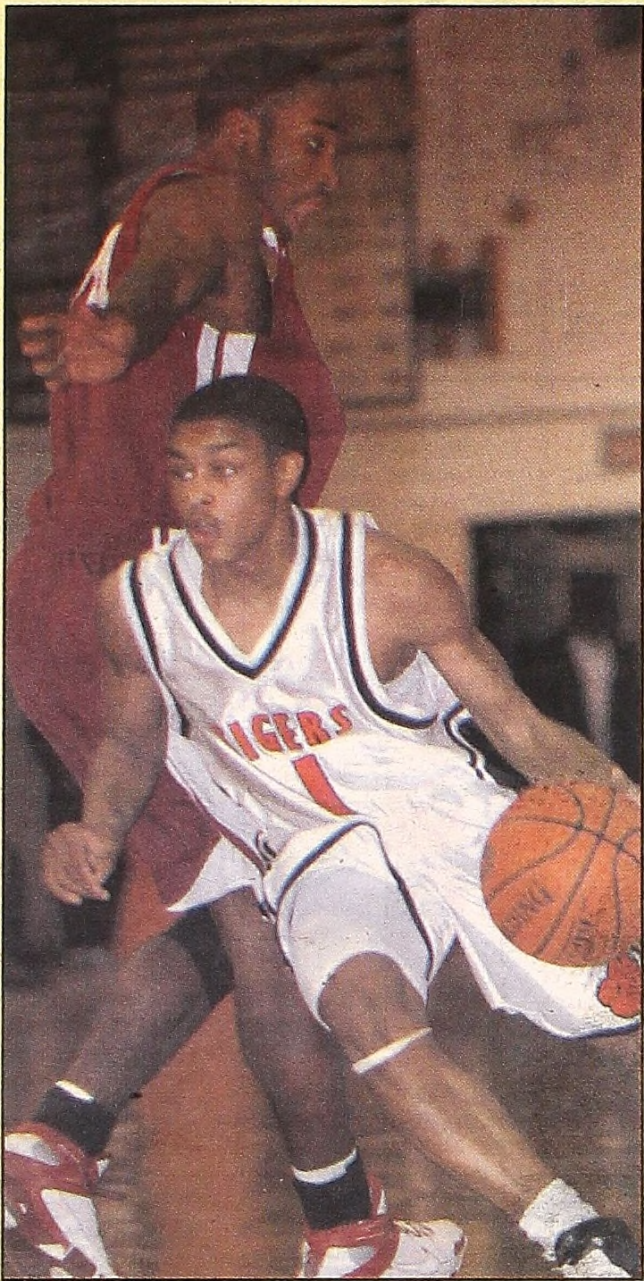
lose. And he didn't. He did not let us lose. He might be the best-kept secret here in the state of Michigan.

"I never doubted our heart but I think some people have," he added. "I believe in these kids; they have such great character. When it comes down to the end they'll find a way."

Belleville heads to Willow Run at 7 p.m. on Friday. The Tigers' next home game is a tussle against Monroe, which supplied Belleville with one of its two Mega Red losses, at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 13.

Romulus hosts Ypsilanti, which beat Belleville last week, at 7 p.m. on Friday for its Coming Home campaign and heads to Monroe at 7 p.m. on Friday and hosts River Rouge at 7 p.m. on Tuesday.

Round two for Belleville and Romulus is at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 27 at Romulus.



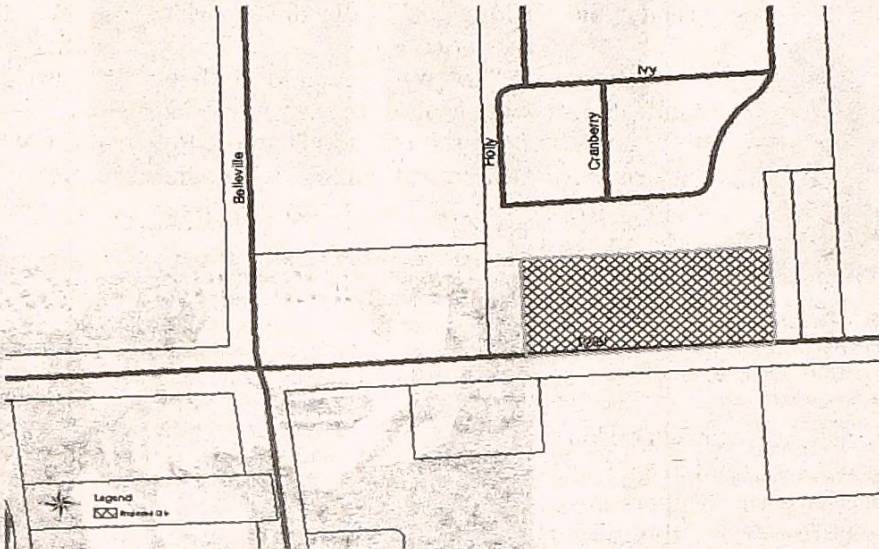
Belleville's Marius Williams drives against Romulus' Devin Searcy last Tuesday. Williams scored 25 points to lead the Tigers in a 70-66 victory against archrival Romulus.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
PLANNING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a public hearing in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, Michigan, 48111 on **Wednesday February 28, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.** to consider a conditional zoning change on the following described property:

Parcel ID number V125-83-039-99-0009-014 having approximately 3 acres proposed to be conditionally rezoned from R1-B Single Family Residential to C-1 General Business.

A map indicating the location of the subject site is included below.



This property is located on the north side of Tyler Road, east of Belleville Road.

Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m. on the hearing date of February 28, 2007.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services, at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Posted: February 8, 2007
Publish: February 8, 2007

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24 Birch*, 1999 Fairmont 3 bdrm/2 bath.
Price Reduced Only \$26,900



24 Ash*, 1988 Victorian, 2 bdrm/2 bath, shed.
Price Reduced Only \$12,000



54 Maple*, 1998 Redman, 3 bdrm/2 bath. 16x80
Price Reduced Only \$19,900



9 Locust*, 1970 Price, 2 bdrm/ 1.5 bath. 12x56
Price Reduced Only \$6,900



15 Maple*, 1998 Fleetwood, 3bdrm/2bath.
Price Reduced Only \$26,900

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Price Pending

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01. Obituaries
02. In Memoriam
03. Cards of Thanks
04. Monuments
& Cemetery Plots
05. Personals/Announcements
06. Legal Notices
07. Attorneys
08. Entertainment
09. Lost & Found
10. Coming Events
30. Help Wanted

31. Help Wanted Sales
32. Help Wanted Drivers
33. Child Care
34. Specialized Services
35. Situations Wanted
40. Business Opportunity
42. Health and Fitness
43. Money to Loan
44. Music/Art Lessons
45. Elderly Health Care
46. Private Schools/Instruction
47. Riding/Horses/Stables

50. Pets & Supplies
54. Rummage Sales
55. Estate Sales
56. Flea Markets
57. Antiques
58. Garage and Yard Sales
59. Auctions
60. Misc. Sales
61. Misc. Items
62. Building Supplies
63. Business and Office Equipment

64. Lawn & Garden Supplies
65. Tree Service
66. Landscape / Nurseries
67. Garden Plant / Supplies
68. Garden / Produce
70. Masonry / Brickwork
72. Machinery Tools
73. Musical Merchandise
74. Sporting Goods
75. Boats / Accessories
76. Remodeling & Renovations
77. Recreation Vehicles

78. Hunting / Fishing
82. Wanted to Buy
87. Room for Rent
88. Duplexes for Rent
89. Apartments for Rent
90. Condos/Townhouses for Rent
92. Business Places for Rent
93. Banquet Halls
94. Farm Land for Rent
95. Real Estate
96. Houses for Rent
97. Cottages for Rent

98. Mobile Homes for Rent
99. Flats for Rent
100. Will Share
101. Wanted to Rent
102. Storage
103. Business Property for Sale
104. Farms & Acreage for Sale
105. Mobile Homes for Sale
106. Houses for Sale
107. Condos/Townhouses for Sale
108. Lake and Resort
109. Income Property

110. Lots for Sale
111. Out of State Property
112. Commercial Lease
113. Real Estate Wanted
114. Auto Accessories
115. Autos for Sale
116. Antique & Classic Cars
117. Trucks & Vans for Sale
118. Freebies
119. Auto Repairs
120. Motorcycles
121. Autos Wanted

1. Obituaries



BALLARD, Simon, age 75, died January 12, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Willie Ajo Ballard; two sons, Simon Ballard, Jr., and Melvin Ballard, Sr.; one daughter, Yolanda Kay Jordan; seven grandchildren, Shonda Jordan, Michael Young, Shaneka Jordan, Jeremy Jordan, Melvin Ballard, Jr., Myrsadez Ballard and Myles Ballard; four great grandchildren, Michael Jr., Mashalya, Mikyah and Edwin, Jr.; three sisters, Jennie Stovall, Ann Cherry and Eddie Ruth Douglas; one brother, Paul Ballard; and a devoted niece and nephew, Eugene and Virginia Williams. Services were held at Pilgrims Travelers MBC with Rev. Joseph A. Stephens officiating. Interment was at Sunset Hills Cemetery. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home.



BARDEN, Keenan M. Collier, age 40, died January 25, 2007. Keenan was diagnosed with leukemia and lymphoma in early 2006. He sustained chemotherapy, radiation therapy and a bone marrow transplant. The transplant results were promising at first, but subsequently, the transplant rejected. After the bone marrow transplant the main thing he wanted to do was go to his home again. Keenan was able to go home to his apartment one last time. He fought a mighty fight, but the Lord decided it was time for him to go to his final home. Keenan leaves to hold onto his memory his son, Keenan Jr., the father that raised and loved him, Don Barden, and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins and relatives. Interment was at Romulus Cemetery. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home.



BONAM, Lorenzo Martin, 45, died January 6, 2007. He was born August 4, 1961 to Reba and Hogan Bonam, Sr. in Ypsilanti, MI. He was the youngest of nine children. He is preceded in death by his mother, father and one brother, Michael P. Bonam. Lorenzo, affectionately known as "Rennie", was a member of Holy Family Church. He was baptized on October 22, 1961. Rennie made his transition from this life doing that which he loved to do, proudly coaching a basketball game at his alma mater, Inkster High School. He leaves to mourn and rejoice his going home, his wife Yvette; their four children, Omar, Jonathan, Lorenzo, Jr. and Dasia; five brothers, Willard, Hogan (Louise), William (Denise), Bernard and Christopher Bonam; two sisters, Thelma Bonam and Bernadine Shipp; two aunts and two uncles, Herbert (Victorine), Warren and Marie Bonam; mother-in-law, Annie Gambri; sisters-in-law, Lisa Jackson and Marissa Gambri; seventeen nieces and nephews, twenty-nine great nieces and nephews and a host of other relatives and friends. Services were held at Holy Family Church and presided over by Fr. Gary Morelli. Interment was at Sunset Hills Cemetery in Ypsilanti, MI. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home.



BONDY, Joseph Henry, age 42 of Wayne, died January 25, 2006. Mr. Bondy attended high school at John Glenn in Westland. Beloved son of James and Barbara (Bonnie). Dear brother of Jim Jr., Dan (Colleen), Dave (Katie), Nancy (Brian) Nace and the late Joan Marie. Also survived by 14 aunts and uncles and 8 nieces and nephews. Mass of the Resurrection was held at St. Mary Church Wayne with Fr. Jack Baker officiating. Interment was at St. Hedwig Cemetery, Dearborn Heights, MI. Final arrangements were entrusted to Uht Funeral Home, Westland, MI. Please visit and post a tribute at: www.uhtfh.com



BOYCE, Nettie Mae, 90, died December 28, 2006. She was born May 21, 1916. She leaves two daughters, Dorothy (Robert) Schropshire and Ruby (Larry) Abdullah; seven grandchildren, Shirley (David) Molbrough, Lenora, Lawrence, Robert Jr., Calvin Jr., Cordell (Carrie) Gibbs and Ambrose; seven great grandchildren; two brothers-in-law, J.C. Boyce of Spartanburg, SC and James Boyce of New York, NY; one sister-in-law, Jessie Mae Hill and niece Arlisa Hill, both of Spartanburg, SC. Services were held at Pilgrim's Travelers Missionary Baptist Church, with Rev. Charlie Knighton officiating. Interment was at United Memorial Gardens in Plymouth, MI. Final arrangements entrusted to Penn Funeral Home.



BREWER, Marvin Donnell, 39, died January 1, 2007. He was born December 22, 1967. He leaves to cherish his memory: his loving mother, Alice (Charles) Lacey; his devoted step father, Rev. Lonnie Scott, Jr.; wife, Dorothy; six children, Alicia McCain, Deandre, Char'elle, Donnell, Shanasia and Xavier Brewer. He also leaves two brothers, Adrian and Orlando "De-Wee", and one sister, Alonda Milan (Terry-who was a special brother-in-law to him); along with eight nephews and two nieces. Services were held at Christian Faith Ministries with Rev. John Hearn, Jr. officiating. Interment was at Knollwood Cemetery. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home.



BRYANT, Eugene Alan, 61, died December 23, 2006. He was born July 28, 1945. Alan was a loving brother to Janice (Gilbert)

Baldwin, Harold Meeks, Gregory Simpson, Jeanetta (Laurence) Davis, James (Josie) Bryant, Cheryl Bryant, Karen (Bruce) Toering, Maria Bryant, Celia Lewis, Angelina (Kirk) Jackson and Sudah Simpson. Alan also leaves to cherish his memory, grandchildren Kimirah, Terrence, Jr. and Shatarin. Alan will be greatly missed by his dearest aunt, Dorothy Juanita Williams and a host of cousins, nieces and nephews. His memory will be cherished and he will be missed by his many friends, among whom are counted his Bros. and Sis. of UAW Local 1076. Funeral services were held at the Christian Tabernacle with Pastor Larry Davis officiating. Interment was at United Memorial Gardens, Plymouth, MI. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home.

JOHNSON, Elder Timothy, age 50, died January 16, 2007. He leaves to cherish his memory his loving wife Jeanette; children, Kenyatta (LaVida), Kalika and Kaleb; his father, Roy Johnson Sr.; sister, Theresa (Arthur) Hemphill; brother, Roy Johnson Jr.; niece Shonda (Edwin) Jordan; nephew, Darre Johnson; great nephew Edwin Jr.; and a host of aunts, cousins and friends. Services were held at the Pentecostal Temple (C.O.G.I.C.) with Bishop Isaac King Jr. officiating. Interment was at Mt. Hope Memorial Gardens. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home.



DAVIS, William H., 96, died December 23, 2006. He was born February 14, 1910. He leaves not to mourn, but to cherish his memory: his beloved children, Teal Maxwell, Loren (Mable) Davis, Betty Patterson, Delores (Uriah) Payne and Velma Davis; adoring grandchildren, Kim, Michael, Martin, Monique, Kenene, Eric, Dennis and Loron, Jr.; his brother, Jerome Davis; his sister, Ruth King; two brothers-in-law, Sim Moore and Thomas Cox; three sisters-in-law, Juliette Davis, Mae Moore and Queen Cox; and a very special friend, Jewel Cantrell. Services were held at First Baptist Church and were officiated by Rev. Charles P. Woolridge. Interment was at Romulus Memorial Cemetery. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home.



JEFFERSON, Robert Lee, 64, died January 5, 2007. He was born September 25, 1942. He leaves to cherish his memory, his loving sister Dollie Jefferson Baines of Inkster, MI., four nieces, Evelyn (Ernest) Gray of Suffolk, VA, Alethia (Ricky) Butler of Yorktown, VA, Ayanna (Kenneth) Hicks of Newport News, VA and

Rashida (Jessie) Stewart of Killeen, TX, two nephews, Jimmie Jefferson and Ireesh Gray of Louisville, KY, and brother-in-law Kevin L. Baines. Services were held at First Baptist Church of Romulus with Rev. Charles P. Woolridge officiating. Interment was at Westlawn Cemetery. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home.



JOHNSON, Elder Timothy, age 50, died January 16, 2007. He leaves to cherish his memory his loving wife Jeanette; children, Kenyatta (LaVida), Kalika and Kaleb; his father, Roy Johnson Sr.; sister, Theresa (Arthur) Hemphill; brother, Roy Johnson Jr.; niece Shonda (Edwin) Jordan; nephew, Darre Johnson; great nephew Edwin Jr.; and a host of aunts, cousins and friends. Services were held at the Pentecostal Temple (C.O.G.I.C.) with Bishop Isaac King Jr. officiating. Interment was at Mt. Hope Memorial Gardens. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home.



LANIER, Alberta, age 98, died January 21, 2007. Sister Lanier, also known to most as "Aunt Bert" leaves to cherish her memory her niece/daughter, Doris (Joseph) Hicks of Taylor, MI; one sister, Rosetta Thornton of Bowie, MD; one brother-in-law, Isiah Blackmon of Laurel, MD; two great nieces, Vernia "JoJo" Hicks of Inkster, MI and Viukki Hicks of Bowie, MD; one great-great niece, Tahitia Hicks of Westland, MI; four great great nephews, Keith Sr., Kevin, Christopher and Tavon; four great-great-nephews, Michael Jr., Keith Jr., Elijah and Miles and many, many other family members and friends. Services were held at Penn Funeral Home with Elder Ronald P. Springer officiating. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home.



LANG, Mae C., age 76, died January 15, 2007. He leaves his mother, Ruby Lang of Meridian, MS; three sisters, Maxine "Sue" Lewis of Inkster, MI, Willie "Doll" Lang of Meridian, MS and Rosie Lee "Bett" Lang or Quitman, MS; one brother, A.C. "Porter" Lang, Sr. of Meridian, MS; one grandson, Deon "De-De" Nelson; two granddaughters, Latandra and Bridgett Harrington; three great grandchildren, D.J., Trinity and Oshea Ladez; one sister-in-law, Suzy Bell of Harrison, MS and seventeen nieces and nephews. Services were held at Pilgrim Travelers Missionary Baptist Church with Rev. Charlie E. Knighten officiating. Interment was at Mt. Hope Memorial Park. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home.

LITTLE, Eugene H., age 70 of Wayne, died February 1, 2007. Beloved husband of Jeanette (Jan). Loving father of Steven, Linda, Michael and Daniel. Dearest grandfather of 11. He is also survived by his brother Richard, and sisters, Elaine and Patricia. Funeral Mass was held at St. Mary Catholic Church with Fr. Jack Baker officiating. Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park in Flat Rock, MI. Final arrangements were entrusted to Harry J. Will Funeral Home in Wayne.



LOWERY, Georgia Daniels, age 95, died January 5, 2007. She leaves one granddaughter, Melonese Smith; one grandson, Robert Saulsberry III; six great grandchildren, Vincent Smith, Maurice Smith, Michael Smith, Robert Saulsberry IV, Yahking Saulsberry and Mira Saulsberry and two great-great grandchildren, Carl Barnett and Jeremiah West. Services were held at Zion Primitive Baptist Church with Elder Rudolph Perry officiating. Interment was at United Memorial Gardens. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home.



McMILLION, Roshell, Jr. (better known as Little Mack), 34, died January 2, 2007. He was born July 9, 1972. He leaves to cherish his memory, one daughter, Rayvin Dowdell-McMillion of Detroit, MI, parents, Rev. Roshell and Shirley McMillion or Evergreen, AL, sister LaTanya (Tony) Franklin of Romulus, MI, two nephews, Keavon Merriweather and Dion Franklin of Romulus, MI, Godsisters, Monique (Steve) Butler, TeQuan (Archie) Berry and Tarsha (Wayne) Bowie, Godbrothers, Brelon and Dorian Evans, Marshaun (Kim) Whittaker, and a host of aunts, uncles and cousins. He also leaves a special friend Donna Smith and two devoted friends, Malik Perdue and Carlos Jackson. Funeral services were held at Beulah Missionary Baptist Church with Rev. Kenneth C. Pierce officiating. Interment was at Jordan Memorial Cemetery, Evergreen, AL. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home.

PEET, Katherine, age 86 of Wayne, died February 2, 2007. Beloved wife of the late Jack. Dear mother of Carolyn (Dan) Edmunds and Jack (Brenda) Peet. Sister of Sophie Stock, grandmother of Jared and Ashley Peet. Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated at St. Mary Church, Wayne, with Fr. Jack Baker officiating. Interment was at Cadillac Memorial Gardens Cemetery West. Memorials requested to Hospice House of Mid Michigan, 1210 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, MI. 48912. Please visit and post a tribute at: www.uhtfh.com

PERKINS, Fannie M. February 1, 2007
PERKINS, Gaylon G. August 15, 2006
Both of Wayne. Loving parents of Judy, Janet, Patricia, Edward, Debbie and Steven. Dearest grandparents of 14, great grandparents of several and great-great grandparents of 1. Services were held at Harry J. Will Funeral Home with Rev. Kurt Radke officiating. Interment was at Glenwood Cemetery in Wayne. Final arrangements were entrusted to Harry J. Will Funeral Home, Wayne, MI.

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Gather the Gang

Have the family get together to make sweet favors — perfect for school or the office — and make Lovepops: Bake heart-shaped sugar cookies on a stick, frost with red or pink icing and decorate with M&M's.



Heart-Felt Parties

Make your sweet holiday celebration fun, unforgettable and full of spice.

- Host a "Couples Dinner Party," and have everyone attend in cocktail attire or black tie. Right before you serve dessert, have the men at the table switch seats — it's a great way to mix and mingle with your guests!
- Masquerade Parties are great for all ages — try hosting a Venetian Masquerade for adults and a fun and festive "make your own mask" party for kids.
- For a quick and inexpensive romantic touch to your dinner for two — scatter rose petals across your tabletop. To set a really sweet mood, scatter Valentine's M&M's with rose petals.
- Create lively conversation by printing a famous love quote underneath each guest's name; place a Dove Rich Dark Chocolate Heart next to each card.

Create the Perfect Date Night

Valentine's Day should be celebrated with that special someone. To plan the perfect date night, check out indulgent and romantic ideas at <http://www.brightideas.com/valentines/date>.

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Tunnel of Love

Treat your "special someone" to this scrumptious tunnel of chocolate.

Makes: 24 servings

Cake

- 1 bag Dove Rich Dark Chocolate Hearts
- 3 cups flour
- 2 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 cup vegetable shortening
- 1 2/3 cups sugar
- 1 teaspoon orange zest
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup milk
- 1/2 cup sour cream

Glaze

- 1 bag Dove Rich Dark Chocolate Hearts
- 1/4 cup light corn syrup
- 1/2 cup heavy cream

Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease and flour 12-cup Bundt pan, set aside. Combine flour, baking powder, soda and salt in mixing bowl, set aside. In separate bowl, microwave 1 bag chocolate hearts until melted (about 1 1/2 minutes), stopping to stir occasionally; set aside.

In large bowl, beat shortening, sugar and orange zest until fluffy; add eggs one at a time,

beating well after each addition. In another bowl, combine milk and sour cream. With electric mixer on low, alternately add flour and milk mixtures into shortening mixture, beating until smooth. Stir 1 cup cake batter into cooled melted chocolate; set aside.

Spoon half of plain batter into bottom of prepared pan; cover with all the chocolate batter; top with remaining plain batter. Bake 55 to 60 minutes, until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Remove from oven to wire rack; cool completely.

For glaze: From 1 bag chocolate hearts, set aside 8. In microwave-safe bowl, combine remaining chocolate hearts, corn syrup and heavy cream. Heat 1 to 2 minutes, stirring frequently until smooth. Cool slightly. Remove cake from pan to wire rack set over sheet pan covered with waxed paper. Spoon glaze over cake, allowing excess to drip. Decorate with reserved chocolate hearts.

Mocha Delight

This true chocolate indulgence will touch everyone's heart.

Makes: 16 slices

Cake

- 4 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1 cup graham cracker crumbs
- 1 22.5-ounce box brownie mix

Frosting

- 3 egg whites
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
- 2 tablespoons instant espresso coffee

Decoration

- 1 bag Dove Rich Dark Chocolate Hearts
- 1 cup whipped cream or topping

Heat oven to 350°F. Line bottom of 9-inch springform pan with waxed paper; grease. Add melted butter to graham cracker crumbs and press into bottom of pan. Prepare brownie mix according to package directions; spread over crumbs. Bake until firm, approximately 35 to 50 minutes, until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Remove from oven to a wire rack; cool completely and remove cake from pan.

Meanwhile, prepare frosting: Whisk egg whites and sugar together over simmering water until sugar is dissolved. Remove from heat; using electric mixer, beat until

cooled. Add butter one nugget at a time while continuing to beat. Dissolve espresso in 2 tablespoons warm water. Beat espresso into frosting.

Frost top and sides of cake. Snip small corner of a resealable plastic bag; place whipped cream inside. Pipe 8 rosettes around outside edges of cake. Place a chocolate heart atop each rosette.

To serve, place 8 chocolate hearts in a small, resealable plastic bag. Microwave until melted, about 15 seconds. Cut a corner of bag; randomly drizzle chocolate on dessert plates. Place a cake wedge on each plate.



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